



BOROUGH OF BLYTH

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND





BOROUGH OF BLYTH

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman :* COUNCILLOR RUTHERFORD

*Vice-Chairman :* COUNCILLOR BREADIN

THE MAYOR	COUNCILLOR SMITH
ALDERMAN THOMPSON	„ SUMMERS
COUNCILLOR BOUND	„ TURNBULL
„ ELDER	„ TWEDDLE
„ HUDSPITH	„ WATTS
„ KENNEDY	„ WOOLFREY
„ PURVES	

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1959

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	... A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i>	G. A. GILL, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Additional Public Health Insp.</i>	W. ALLAN, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Trainee Public Health Insp.</i>	R. CHEETHAM
<i>Clerk</i> ... ..	C. FELLOWS
<i>Shorthand Typist</i> ... ..	V. COLPITTS
<i>Rodent Officer</i> ... ..	B. WADE

## BOROUGH OF BLYTH

---

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1959.

The state of the health of the community is most satisfactory. The population has increased by 140 to 34,760, which is the largest ever recorded.

The number of live births increased from 608 in 1958 to 712 in 1959. This is equivalent to a 17% increase in the birth rate and we have to go back to 1948 to find a higher number of births, and in that year there were 40 infant deaths compared with the 16 in 1959.

The infant mortality rate was 22.4 per 1,000 live births compared with the 37.8 in 1958.

The number of illegitimate live births, however, rose from 13 to 30, but there was only one illegitimate still birth and no illegitimate infant deaths.

There were 981 notifications of infectious disease during the year and of these 866 were due to measles. There was one small outbreak of food poisoning involving four cases traced to infected tinned meat.

There were no notifications of diphtheria.

The number of tuberculosis notifications rose from 19 in 1958 to 40 in 1959—32 of these were pulmonary cases. However, the number of cases remaining on the tuberculosis register fell from 461 in 1958 to 409 in 1959. Progress is being made in eradicating this disease.

It is hoped that progress will be made in 1960 in dealing with the caravan problem.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year and my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation. The Health Department staff deserve high praise for their work during the year. It should not be forgotten that the basis of a healthy community depends on the unspectacular routine day-to-day work of the Public Health Department and the office staff. This is so often taken for granted.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS

He's crackers, round the bend, ripe for the loony bin ! These phrases are still heard, not uncommonly, in streets, round the doors, in cafés or other public places because someone has developed a peculiarity or eccentricity. He may or may not be suffering from mental disorder but merely queer in his habits and actions.

This, then, is the problem illness of today and tomorrow. The illness which is now causing concern to everyone connected with positive health—Mental Disorder.

By far the greatest percentage of hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from some kind of mental disease. There was a time when this kind of affliction was dealt with by more or less imprisoning these unfortunates, feeding them and ensuring that they did not escape. That was a long time ago when ignorance and superstition reigned supreme. It is not so long ago, however, that, although the methods were more humane and conditions in every way had improved, the most that could be done for these patients was to keep them in restraint, year after year with very little in the way of treatment, because suitable treatment was unknown. Conditions such as these, due to lack of knowledge and understanding leave their mark on society and even today there is the feeling that mental disorder carries with it a social stigma and the inborn fear of 'being put away.'

It seems difficult for the layman to accept that the brain and the mind can be compared with the other organs and systems of the body. No one thinks any the worse of a person who has a 'bad heart' or in other words, Heart Disease, or Kidney Disease or Bronchitis, or Measles, or a Broken Leg. Why then, should they be afraid or amused or disgusted when a person has a disease of the mind. Perhaps because such a person acts queerly, but not any more so than a patient with his leg in plaster or on crutches. Much of the abhorrence is due to ignorance of the causes and fear of the consequences. There must be much more sympathy and understanding of the problems and worries of mental patients.

Can mental disorder be cured ? Yes, many types of mental disorder react most favourably to modern methods of treatment.



Can mental disorder be prevented? I think that some kinds of mental disorder can be prevented, but the state of our knowledge at the present time makes prevention difficult. We do not know sufficient about the causative factors, but equally we are not allowing the knowledge that we do possess to be disseminated widely enough among the general public. There is a grave danger of giving the impression to the public that mental illness is a mystery, strangely bizarre and quite incomprehensible. In fact some of the causes leading to mental disorder are commonplace.

Mental disorder may be precipitated by the most trivial of incidents, any one of which may appear negligible to the average man in the street, but when multiplied can assume such proportions, that, to the individual concerned they take precedence over everything else. Remember that most of the disease-causing germs are microscopical in size and that they too multiply when they give rise to the disease in question—influenza, measles or tuberculosis, etc.

Thus the causes may arise because, the housewife becomes irritated because her husband goes out every night on his own; because her husband stays in every night without exchanging a word with her; because a child has failed the eleven plus when a neighbour's child has been successful; because of insecurity due to a dead-end job; because of a desire to keep up with the Jones with resultant debts; because of a nagging mother-in-law; because the housewife has to help to look after her own or her husband's aged parents in her own home; because of a feeling of persecution by neighbours; because of excessive religious zeal; because she is sure that the neighbours are always watching her from behind their curtains. One of these can be the trigger which eventually sets off the explosion in the mind.

Many of these situations could be alleviated if not completely cleared up if the person concerned would be willing to unburden his or her heart to some sympathetic listener—perhaps sympathetic is an unfortunate choice because not everyone is suited to listen to another's trials and tribulations. Surely there must be someone to help—doctor, nurse, health visitor, minister, teacher, lawyer or social worker—people capable of taking an unbiased,



detached view of the problem. Someone to listen, to comfort, and to advise. The very fact of 'getting it off one's chest' can often be the safety valve for suppressed feelings or the fact of facing up to one's troubles and having them shared can bring lasting relief to a problem which might otherwise have serious consequences if not unburdened.

There are, of course, patients with incurable heart disease, with inoperable cancer and other illnesses that have gone too far. In the same way diseases of the mind can reach that state where only hospital treatment is the answer and sometimes the patient can reach the stage when he is a danger to himself or to others, and for everyone's sake must be detained in hospital. With this exception, however, hospital treatment is no longer intended to be indefinite incarceration. More and more, patients are being admitted to hospital for short periods of treatment, in the same way as other diseases are treated in other hospitals and then discharged home for further treatment under the family doctor.

This is the method of the future and it is one which will give confidence to patients and perhaps even cause them to seek advice at a much earlier stage. Like any other disease, the sooner it is discovered the better chance there is of complete recovery.

## 1950 — IN RETROSPECT

### Housing.

The following houses were still in existence, constituting sordid slum dwellings lacking essential amenities. The majority were maintained in an amazingly clean and tidy state by the tenants. It was difficult to understand how this standard was achieved.

1. Cowpen Colliery—West Row, Gas Row, Double Row, 6th Row.
2. Phoenix Street and Elliott Street.
3. Cowpen Row.
4. Kitty Brewster.
5. Bebside—Purvis Row, Front Street, Errington Street, Wood Row, Stone Row and Lonsdale Terrace.

6. Ridley Street.
7. Northumberland Street (Part).
8. Robert Street, Coomassie Road (Parts of).
9. South Newsham—Double and Single Row.
10. Seaton Sluice—Avenue Row, Seaton Village, Fountain Head Bank.

All these were slums. Some mining property, some private but all overdue for demolition.

There are children growing up in Blyth today who have the good fortune never to have seen these streets and rows.

I can imagine that few tears will be shed for their passing.

There is still a great deal of property which, if not quite so bad, leaves much to be desired. Cowpen Quay has many houses which will never have the amenities which are commonplace in houses today. To name two—a bathroom and an indoor water closet. Much of the property is old and congested and impinges on the industrial part of the town. Much of the property does not lend itself to adaption—(this has been considered by the Health Department)—and can only be kept in a good state of repair, without ever reaching present day standards. In any case further progress is limited to the number of new houses which the council are prepared to build.

### **Housing—1959.**

In spite of the foregoing there is a brighter side to Blyth housing. There is a large modern housing estate at Cowpen comprising 64 4-bedroom houses, 144 3-bedroom houses, 308 2-bedroom houses, 15 blocks of 12 single persons' flats and 130 aged persons' bungalows. There are, under construction, two special handicapped persons' bungalows. Temporary shops are to be replaced by permanent ones. There is a new Methodist Chapel, an old people's home with 31 beds, and a new Inn.

There is a smaller estate at Kitty Brewster and a new estate in Newsham Road, Laverock Hall Road, and Seaton Sluice.

Maisonettes are being built in Delaval Terrace and others are being planned for the cleared sites of Phoenix Street and Elliott Street and Coomassie Road.

There are still people who would prefer to live "in the town" as opposed to the outlying estates and land must be found to accommodate them.

Although to date it has not been possible to obtain new tenants for the vacant industrial building on Cowpen Estate, there is room for further light industrial expansion for future needs if Blyth is to maintain its working population.

### **SEWAGE POLLUTION AND BATHING BEACHES**

The Medical Research Council state with regard to this question that "It does not appear that any serious injury to Public Health is to be feared from pollution of bathing grounds by sewage, if reasonable care is taken in selecting positions for outfalls."

Superficially, this is most comforting to Medical Officers of Health who have bathing beaches in their areas. More careful study of the report, and especially the sentence quoted above, makes one just a little less comforted.

If sewage contamination occurred to the same extent in public drinking water supplies, then there would be considerable consternation among the Water Corporations. It is well to remember that all faecal material is potentially dangerous and because it has never been proved in the past that it caused an outbreak of disease, is not to say that it may not be responsible for one in the future.

It has been pointed out that a beetle or a mouse in a loaf would be most unlikely to cause disease to a person consuming it; that blocked drains are also unlikely to cause an "epidemic"; that a putrid piece of beef would be unlikely to cause the death of a person who unwittingly ate it, but there are laws in existence which allow the Public Health Department to take action against these occurrences.

Very little can be done about selecting positions for suitable outfalls because most of the outfalls have been there for many years.

Frequent inspections have been made by the Health Department of the beach at different times and at different states of the tides, and it has been found that on the open beach, faecal pollution is not serious. It does occur near the outfalls, many of which are in a shocking state of disrepair. Long stretches of sand and water towards Seaton Sluice appear relatively little affected.

The harbour is a different story. Pollution does occur there to a marked degree.

A new sewage scheme for Blyth, eliminating all sea outfalls would be a very expensive undertaking, but is one which should be considered. It might be possible to deal with a small section at a time over the years until all crude sewage outfalls are closed.

Sewage outfalls to the beach and sea are a cheap method of sewage disposal and one which was accepted many years ago as satisfactory. Now it is potentially dangerous and far from aesthetic and an effort should be made to employ more modern, although more expensive ways, of dealing with the problem.

## **ROAD ACCIDENTS AND ROAD SAFETY**

The Chief Constable of Northumberland's annual report on road accidents makes interesting but rather depressing reading. Fatal accidents up by seven, serious casualties up by 144, minor casualties up by 118, making a total casualty increase of 269.

Blyth had two fatal accidents on the roads in 1959 and there were 33 persons seriously injured. There were 128 accidents in Blyth which caused injury of some kind—more than two per week.

It would seem that it is safer not to be a pedestrian. They topped the fatal accidents in the County as a group (29), passengers in vehicles were the next most dangerous group to be in (13), and the next group were the motor-cyclists (10) followed by pedal cyclists (9). It should be noted that six out of the ten motor cyclists were not wearing crash helmets.



Of the pedestrians killed in the County six were under 15 years of age and of the nine pedal cyclists two were under 15 years of age.

The majority of accidents occurred on main trunk roads and on unclassified roads. Most of the accidents happened in July and August on Saturdays and Sundays between 5 - 6 p.m.

The fewest accidents took place on Class 'C' roads in February on Tuesdays between 4 - 5 a.m.

The inference is obvious. Avoid trunk roads during week-ends between 5 - 6 p.m. especially in July and August.

What causes road accidents ?

According to the Police report, the commonest offence where proceedings were taken was excessive speed in a built up area (634). The next was careless driving (378). There were, however, 177 prosecutions for the neglect of traffic signals.

It would seem that a great number of accidents are due to carelessness, inattention, impatience and possibly the idea that 'it couldn't happen to me.'

Can accidents be prevented ? Many of the accidents reported in 1959 were preventable which is not quite the same thing, and until there is less desire for speed, less impatience, more tolerance and consideration for others, they will continue to occur.

Although not always apparent, I feel that the kerb drill taught in schools and the safety first instruction given by the police to children does play a big part in preventing even higher casualty rates. Constant repetition of the right kind helps to instil good reflex actions and most children are receiving this.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1959

Area—No change.

Acreage—6,487.

Population—(Registrar-General's Estimate) .. 34,760

Rate Value—(1st April, 1959) .. .. £335,110

Product of a Penny Rate (estimated) .. .. £1,302

Total Number of Dwellinghouses in Borough—  
(1st April, 1959) 10,782

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.28.

	1959	1958
Total Live Births .. .. .	712	608
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (uncorrected) .. .. .	20.4	17.5
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (standardised) .. .. .	20.4	17.5
Still Births .. .. .	13	15
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.9	24
Total live and still Births .. .. .	725	623
Infant Deaths .. .. .	16	23
Neo-natal Deaths .. .. .	12	16
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	22.4	37.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legiti- mate live births .. .. .	23.4	35.2
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births .. .. .	Nil.	153.8
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births) ..	16.8	31.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	12.6	26.3
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births) .. .. .	30.3	49.7
Illegitimate live births .. .. .	30	13
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births .. .. .	4.2	2.1
Maternal deaths .. .. .	Nil.	Nil.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	Nil.	Nil.
Total deaths .. .. .	371	348
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population	10.6	10.5
Standardised death rate per 1,000 home population .. .. .	13.5	13.4
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 home population .. .. .	0.11	0.08



	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. of live births	660	674	618	618	638	585	624	610	608	712
No. of deaths ...	417	453	352	335	354	357	370	348	365	371
Excess of births over deaths	243	221	266	283	284	228	254	262	243	341

## Infantile Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1950-1959

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Infant Deaths ...	31	21	11	18	11	21	11	12	23	16
Infant Mortality Rate ...	46.9	31.1	17.8	29.1	17.2	35.8	17.6	19.5	37.8	22.4

## Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Where death occurred	Age	Avoidable or not
1	Jejunal Atresia ...	F	Hospital	1 Week	Not
2	Broncho-Pneumonia with Prematurity ...	F	Hospital	3 Days	Not
3	Prematurity ...	M	Hospital	4 Days	Not
4	Pneumonia ...	M	Home	2 Months	Yes
5	Septicaemia ...	M	Hospital	6 Days	
6	Fibrocystic Disease ...	M	Home	3 Hours	Not
7	Congenital Heart Disease ...	M	Hospital	6 days	Not
8	Prematurity ...	F	Hospital	2 Weeks	Not
9	Prematurity with Hyaline Disease ...	M	Hospital	1 Day	Not
10	Inhalation Broncho-Pneumonia...	M	Hospital	1 Week	???
11	Prematurity with Atelectasis	M	Hospital	1 Day	Not
12	Intra Cranial Thrombosis ...	M	Hospital	1 Month	Not
13	Prematurity ...	F	Hospital	2 Hours	Not
14	Asphyxia Pallida ...	M	Home	40 Mins.	Not
15	Gastro Enteritis ...	M	Hospital	1 Month	Yes
16	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	M	Hospital	6 Months	Yes

12 Neo-natal deaths—*i.e.*, deaths under four weeks of age.

9 Early Neo-natal deaths—under one week of age.

# Causes of Death, 1959

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	4	—	4
053.4	Septicaemia ... ..	1	—	1
092	Infectious Hepatitis ... ..	1	—	1
150	Malignant Neoplasia of Oesophagus ...	3	1	4
151	"                    " Stomach ... ..	5	6	11
153	"                    " Large Bowel ...	4	7	11
154	"                    " Rectum ... ..	4	4	8
155	"                    " Gall Bladder ...	—	1	1
156	"                    " Liver ... ..	—	1	1
157	"                    " Pancreas ... ..	2	—	2
158	"                    " Peritoneum ...	1	—	1
161	"                    " Larynx ... ..	1	—	1
162	"                    " Bronchus and Lung	15	3	18
170	"                    " Breast ... ..	—	5	5
171	"                    " Cervix Uteri ...	—	3	3
172	"                    " Corpus Uteri ...	—	1	1
175	"                    " Ovary ... ..	—	3	3
180	"                    " Kidney ... ..	1	2	3
181	"                    " Bladder ... ..	4	—	4
190.5	"                    " Trunk (Melanoma)	1	—	1
192	"                    " Eye ... ..	1	—	1
193	"                    " Brain ... ..	—	2	2
199	"                    " Unspecified ...	2	—	2
201	Hodgkins Disease ... ..	2	1	3
291	Anaemia (Hypochromic) ... ..	—	1	1
292.4	Aplastic Anaemia ... ..	1	—	1
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage ... ..	—	2	2
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	8	6	14
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis ...	15	19	34
350	Paralysis Agitans ... ..	—	1	1
420	Arterio Sclerotic Heart Disease ... ..	1	2	3
420.1	Coronary Thrombosis ... ..	46	28	74
420.2	Angina Pectoris ... ..	1	—	1
421	Chronic Endocarditis ... ..	—	2	2
422	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration ... ..	13	12	25
422.2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility	6	7	13
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation ... ..	1	2	3
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure ... ..	8	10	18
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure ... ..	1	2	3
434.3	Cor Pulmonale ... ..	2	1	3
451	Aortic Aneurysm ... ..	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism ... ..	—	3	3
490	Lobar Pneumonia ... ..	2	2	4
491	Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	10	5	15
500	Acute Bronchitis ... ..	1	—	1
502	Chronic Bronchitis ... ..	8	1	9
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia ... ..	1	2	3
526	Bronchiectasis ... ..	1	—	1
540	Gastric Ulcer ... ..	—	1	1
570	Intestinal Obstruction ... ..	—	1	1
571	Gastro-Enteritis ... ..	1	—	1
587	Acute Pancreatitis ... ..	—	2	2
592	Chronic Nephritis ... ..	1	2	3
593	Nephritis Unspecified ... ..	1	—	1
610	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	—	1
752	Congenital Hydrocephalus ... ..	—	1	1
754.2	Congenital Cardiac Septal Defect ...	1	—	1
756.2	Jujunal Atresia ... ..	1	—	1
759	Fibrocystic Disease of Lungs ... ..	1	—	1
762	Atelectasis ... ..	1	—	1
762.5	Atelectasis with Prematurity ... ..	1	—	1
763	Pneumonia of Newborn ... ..	—	1	1
763.5	Pneumonia of Newborn with Prematurity	1	1	2

## Causes of Death, 1959—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
773.5	Hyaline Membrane Disease with Prematurity ...	2	—	2
776	Prematurity Unqualified ... ..	1	—	1
792	Uraemia ... ..	2	1	3
794	Senility ... ..	2	3	5
E812.4	Motor Vehicle Accident to Pedestrian ...	—	1	1
E851	Fall from Ship ... ..	1	—	1
E900	Fall on Stairs ... ..	1	—	1
E904	Unspecified Falls ... ..	2	—	2
E929	Accidental Drowning ... ..	3	—	3
E970	Suicide, Aspirin Poisoning ... ..	1	—	1
E972	Suicide, Coal Gas Poisoning ... ..	4	—	4
Other	Perforated Aorta, Swallowed Chicken Bone	1	—	1
		209	162	371
	Deaths over 65 years of age ... ..	118	111	229
	Deaths 1—4 years inclusive ... ..	—	1	1

## Deaths 1951-59 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1951	—	2	1	—	3
1952	—	—	1	1	2
1953	1	—	2	1	4
1954	4	—	—	1	5
1955	—	—	1	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—
1957	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	—	—	1	1

## Deaths, 1959

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Number of Deaths each month	41	30	3 <sup>9</sup>	26	27	29	34	21	37	22	38	36	371

## TUBERCULOSIS 1944 - 1959

Table showing the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in the respective years and the number of deaths which have occurred, also the time elapsed from notification to death.

Year	Number of Notifica-tions	Number of Deaths	Period within which death occurred									
			Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	6-7 years	7-8 years	8-9 years	Over 10 yrs.
1959	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	36	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956	46	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	69	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	62	9	5	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1952	96	11	6	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
1951	88	17	7	—	2	3	3	2	—	—	—	—
1950	84	12	7	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1949	72	16	5	3	5	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
1948	56	21	7	8	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1947	47	25	6	12	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
1946	55	5	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1944	58	29	5	5	6	7	1	—	—	1	—	4
	915	172	65	43	25	14	7	6	1	3	3	5

## TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
6-10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
16-20	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
31-35	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
41-45	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
46-50	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
56-60	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
61-65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	13	19	4	4	4	—	—	—
Grand Totals	32		8		4		—	

## Tuberculosis Register, 31st December, 1959

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS Pulm. and Non- Pulm.
	Pulm.	Non- Pulm.	Pulm.	Non- Pulm.	
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1959	190	18	219	38	465

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1950 - 1959

Year			All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1950	...	...	92	17	0.48
1951	...	...	90	23	0.56
1952	...	...	103	13	0.38
1953	...	...	73	14	0.40
1954	...	...	49	8	0.23
1955	...	...	72	6	0.17
1956	...	...	52	7	0.20
1957	...	...	44	7	0.20
1958	...	...	19	3	0.08
1959	...	...	40	4	0.11

### Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
9.7	10.2	12.9	14.2	13.9	15.2	14.7	15.2	13.3	11.7

### TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

During 1959 there were 32 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and eight cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This is a set back compared with the 1958 figures when there were only 14 pulmonary cases notified. It makes pulmonary tuberculosis cases the second highest notified disease during 1959, and certainly the most important.

It prevents any feeling of complacency about the excellent figures of 1958 and it points to the fact that there must be many undetected reservoirs of infection in the Borough.



There is some reassurance, however, in that half the cases were ones with minimal lesions. They have every hope of a speedy recovery. There were eight cases of moderate severity and eight cases with extensive disease. Six of the severe cases were male. One male and one female case was 16 years of age.

There were 19 females notified and 13 males. The female age group is quite definitely younger than the male. There were eight females under 21 years compared with three males under 21 years. There were nine females between 21 and 45 years compared with five males in that age group. Nine of the females were housewives.

I would like to emphasise again the excellent relations which exist between the Health Department and the Chest Clinic staff. The aim is treatment and prevention and eventual eradication of tuberculosis.

The chest clinic staff with the help of the health visitors make every effort to have *all* family contacts examined. In most cases there is willing co-operation but occasionally, especially in the elderly, there is reluctance and sometimes refusal to co-operate.

The Health Department are responsible for rounding up the contacts at work. Permission to disclose the nature of the illness is first obtained from the patient and then all the contacts are written to and advised to have a chest X-ray.

In schools, the parents of children in the forms concerned are advised to have them attend for examination.

At least it can be said that the trend of the disease is still downward.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1959

There were 981 notifications of infectious diseases during 1959. The majority were measles. This was to be expected following the record low figure of last year.

### MEASLES

There were 886 cases notified during the year. There were no deaths.



## SCARLET FEVER

There were 14 cases of this disease notified during the year.

## DYSENTERY

There were 12 cases notified during the year. They were sporadic in character and no epidemic developed.

## WHOOPING COUGH

There were six cases of whooping cough notified during the year. This is a marked drop compared with last year when there were 144 cases. None of the cases had been protected against the disease. It may well be the effects of increased prophylactic measures that has given this record low figure.

## FOOD POISONING

There were four cases of food poisoning notified during 1959. This was a single family outbreak due to eating infected chopped pork. It is almost certain that the infection occurred in the country where the pork was tinned. A full investigation was carried out. The disease was short, sharp and severe but there were no fatalities. The infection was due to toxins of staphylococcal origin.

## MALARIA

There was one case notified and it was ascertained that the infection had occurred abroad.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE CARRIERS

The carrier state of the population is usually an unknown quantity for any disease except in epidemics when an assessment may be made. Following a case of bowel infection it was decided to have examined, the stools of 100 persons at random. The names of some 120 families were taken at random from the electoral roll. They were visited and it was explained that the health department wished to check on one member from each family to see if that person was a carrier of infectious disease. The specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for *Salmonella* or *Shigella* infection. From the first 12 samples there were two positive for *Salmonella typhi* murium (clinically symptomless). This looked ominous. The following 89, however, were negative.

# **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1959—Age Distribution**

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6—10	11—15	16—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	K.N.	Total
Measles ... ..	36	121	130	130	147	200	121	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	886
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	9	5	4	4	2	1	—	32
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	2	2	1	3	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	10
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
	38	123	132	135	150	209	132	12	11	10	9	8	8	4	—	981

# Infectious Diseases and Age Distribution, 1959

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified Total (all ages) ...	9	5	2	4	—	—	—	—	453	433	—	—	9	3	—	—
Final numbers after correction:																
Under 1 year ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	23	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	62	58	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3 " ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	68	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 " ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	64	63	—	—	1	—	—	—
4-5 " ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	84	67	—	—	3	3	—	—
5-9 " ...	6	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	156	163	—	—	2	—	—	—
10-14 " ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	9	5	2	4	—	—	—	—	453	433	—	—	9	3	—	—
	Acute Pneumonia		Small-pox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
					Infective		Post Infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified: Total (all ages) ...	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	5
Final numbers after correction:																
Under 5 years ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 " ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
45-64 " ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	3
	Tuberculosis															
	Respiratory		Meninges and C.N.S.		Other											
	M	F	M	F	M	F										
	M	F	M	F	M	F										
Numbers originally notified: Total (all ages) ...	13	19	—	—	4	4										
Final numbers after correction:																
Under 5 years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—										
5-14 years ...	1	5	—	—	—	1										
15-24 " ...	2	6	—	—	—	—										
25-44 " ...	5	5	—	—	3	2										
45-64 " ...	4	2	—	—	—	1										
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	13	19	—	—	4	4										
							Other Notifiable Diseases									
							Puerperal Pyrexia				Malaria					
							Original	F	M	F	Original	F	M	F	Original	F
Numbers originally notified: Total (all ages) ...	13	19	—	—	4	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Final numbers after correction:																
Under 5 years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—										
5-14 years ...	1	5	—	—	—	1										
15-24 " ...	2	6	—	—	—	—										
25-44 " ...	5	5	—	—	3	2										
45-64 " ...	4	2	—	—	—	1										
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	13	19	—	—	4	4										

# Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Malaria	Para Typhoid Fever	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
1950	44	—	17	58	5	5	—	84	8	282	652	1	—	3	1	1	—	—
1951	57	—	10	54	5	1	—	88	2	93	490	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	65	—	10	29	2	6	—	96	7	45	346	—	—	1	—	—	24	3
1953	83	—	8	16	1	1	—	62	11	190	747	—	2	—	—	—	5	6
1954	34	—	10	14	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12	—
1955	11	—	11	24	2	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	2	—	—	8	2
1956	12	—	2	15	1	8	—	46	6	177	63	—	2	2	—	—	7	6
1957	11	—	7	9	—	203	—	36	8	56	859	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
1958	6	—	3	5	1	11	—	14	5	144	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1959	14	—	7	10	—	12	—	32	8	6	886	1	—	—	—	—	4	1

## CANCER

Type All Causes			1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
			44	39	37	19	55	26	42	27	36	35	48	35
			83		56		81		69		71		83	
Bronchogenic	...	...	16	3	11	1	20	1	13	1	13	2	12	3
Stomach	...	...	5	6	11	4	13	6	6	6	10	7	7	5
Intestine	...	...	11	13	3	4	5	2	7	6	5	5	8	5
Female Organs	...	...	—	12	—	7	—	10	—	8	—	11	—	16
Others	...	...	12	5	12	3	17	7	16	6	10	21	21	6

# CANCER DEATHS, 1959

## Site and Age Distribution

SITE OF DISEASE	MALE						FEMALE							
	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total
	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total
Epiglottis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Stomach ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	—	—	—	2	1	3	6
Large Bowel ...	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	4	4
Rectum ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gall Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pancreas ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retro Peritoneal ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus and Lung ...	—	—	—	2	7	6	15	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	5
Cervix Uteri ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3
Corpus Uteri ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ovary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Kidney and Ureter ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Bladder ...	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melanoma of Back ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Choroid of Eye ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brain ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Unspecified...	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	—	3	14	26	44	—	1	2	9	7	20	39

# SICK BENEFIT SCHEME

1959

Number of workmen sick	...	...	...	...	...	148
Number of workmen sick (maintenance staff)	...	...	...	...	...	140
Number of workmen sick (direct labour)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of days lost by sickness (total)	...	...	...	...	...	3,175
Number of days lost by sickness (maintenance staff)	...	...	...	...	...	3,063
Number of days lost by sickness (direct labour)	...	...	...	...	...	112
Number of maintenance workers employed	...	...	...	...	...	278
Number of direct labour workers employed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total labour force	...	...	...	...	...	295
Average length of time off in days	...	...	...	...	...	21
Percentage of workmen sick during the year :						
Total	...	...	...	...	...	50%
Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	50%
Direct labour	...	...	...	...	...	47%

Commonest period of absence was 1 - 2 weeks. The commonest cause of absence was bronchitis, followed by injury (not all injuries were due to employment).

## LABORATORY SPECIMENS, 1959

### BACTERIOLOGICAL

(Public Health Laboratory Service, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne).

#### A. PATHOLOGICAL

(1) Coagulase positive Staphylococcus	Present	...	...	1
(2) B. Tuberculosis	Present	...	...	2
	No pathogens isolated	...	...	32
(3) Faeces				
Sh. Sonnei	Present	...	...	6
Salm. Typhimurium	Present	...	...	18
	No pathogens isolated	...	...	117

#### B. WATER, MILK, ETC.

(1) <i>Water Samples.</i>						
(a) Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	11
(b) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	77
(2) <i>Milk Samples.</i>						
(a) For Pasteurised Milk :						
(1) Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	...	...	17
(2) Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	...	17
(3) Turbidity Test	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3) <i>Sterility of Milk Bottles.</i>						
(a) Satisfactory.	41	(b) Fairly Satisfactory.	24	(c) Unsatisfactory.	20	90
(4) <i>Ice Cream.</i>						
(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	34



## 1915—1959

	45 years ago 1915	40 years ago 1920	30 years ago 1930	20 years ago 1940	10 years ago 1950	1959
Population ... ..	29,196	32,733	31,833	32,722	35,280	34,760
Births ... ..	822	993	638	589	660	712
Birth Rate/1,000 ... ..	28.15	30.3	21.0	18.0	18.8	20.4
Deaths ... ..	522	426	343	464	417	371
Death Rate/1,000 ... ..	18.4	13	10.8	14.2	11.8	10.6
Infant Deaths ... ..	139	112	51	38	31	16
Infant Mortality Rate ... ..	114	112.7	77.0	64.5	46.9	22.4
Diphtheria cases notified	18	38	12	44	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria Deaths ... ..	4	6	Nil.	3	Nil.	Nil.
Pulmonary T.B. cases notified ... ..	41	47	56	38	84	32
Pulmonary T.B. deaths ... ..	29	44	29	31	17	4
Non-Pulmonary T.B. cases notified ... ..	20	10	23	11	8	8
Non-Pulmonary T.B. deaths ... ..	21	17	13	4	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet fever cases notified ... ..	51	79	26	30	44	14
Scarlet fever deaths ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1959

### Part II—Environmental Hygiene—Housing

Since the approval by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1955 of the official five year slum clearance programme, steady progress has been maintained, and at the end of 1959 there were some 52 houses remaining to be dealt with, principally in the Disraeli and Gladstone Street area.

In addition to the continuance of the slum clearance programme, much time was devoted to the other aspects of housing, e.g. improvement grants, undertakings to repair, proposed house purchase, houses for agricultural workers; and miscellaneous inspections relative to re-housing, overcrowding and Rent Act, a total of 1,724 visits and interviews being made.

It is anticipated that with the early completion of the current slum clearance programme, attention will be directed to the repair and improvement of remaining properties.

Details of housing progress to date are given in the following pages.

### Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders, 1959.

	Houses Demolished	Displacements	
		Persons	Families
Clearance Areas ... ..	57	—	—
Individual Unfit Houses, Sec. 17(i), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	4 Houses Closed	39	12
Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	16	70	22
Parts of buildings closed, Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	13	37	13
	90	146	47

The total figures since 1945 are:—

YEAR	CLEARANCE AREAS		DEMOLITION ORDERS		CLOSING ORDERS		TOTAL	
	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced
1945/50	399	1,875	55	432	1	4	455	2,311
1951	139	339	2	4	10	19	151	362
1952	67	220	76	298	8	36	151	554
1953	112	362	64	194	27	120	203	676
1954	—	—	33	103	37	131	70	234
1955	—	—	22	82	21	81	43	163
1956	109	—	4	22	23	119	136	141
1957	31	3	15	74	15	59	61	136
1958	2	184	3	26	23	51	28	261
1959	57	—	4	39	29	107	90	146
	916	2,983	278	1,274	194	727	1,388	4,984

### Housing Act, 1957—Individual Unfit Houses

The following Orders became operative during the year :

	Houses	Persons	Families
(Sec. 17) Demolition ... ..	7	17	7
(Sec. 17) Closing in lieu of Demolition ...	14	50	16
(Sec. 18) Closing (parts of buildings) ... ..	4	10	4
	25	77	27
	==	==	==

*Representations.*—33 houses were represented during the year as being unfit for human habitation.

*Undertakings.*—The undermentioned dwellings were the subject of undertakings to repair and applications for revocations of Orders :—

<i>Address</i>	<i>No.</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
19 Stanley Street ...	1	Completed.	Order revoked.
34 Disraeli Street ...	1	Completed.	Order revoked.
76/78 Coomassie Road ...	2	Completed.	Order revoked.
3 Marine Terrace ...	1	Completed.	Order revoked.
372/374 Cowpen Road ...	2	Completed.	No Orders made.
29 Beaumont Street ...	1	In progress.	
31 Wright Street ...	1	In progress.	
43/43½ Wright Street ...	2	In progress.	Acquired by Council.

*Change of Use.*—The undermentioned dwellinghouses, subject of Closing Orders, were approved for change of use as under :—

15 Seaforth Street ...	1	Ladies' Hairdresser.
14 Percy Street ...	1	United Staff Entertainments Committee—Private Club.

## Slum Clearance—Five Year Programme

Steady progress was made towards the treatment of the 535 unfit houses approved in 1955 by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, a total of 498 dwellings having been dealt with. Although the balance remaining is shown as 37, there are still some 52 houses scheduled, the difference being due to exclusions and additions to the original figure.

The position at the end of the year was :—

							<i>Dwellings</i>
<i>Clearance Areas (Operative)</i>							
Cowpen Colliery and Cowpen Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
<i>Clearance Areas (Confirmed 1957)</i>							
Seaton Sluice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Harper and Marlow Streets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
<i>Demolition Orders</i>	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959		
Sec. 11, H.A. 1936	12	14	12	—	—	...	38
<i>Closing Orders</i>							
Sec. 12, H.A. 1936	10	10	23	—	—	...	43
<i>Closing Orders</i>							
Local Govt. (M.P.) Act	20	14	13	—	—	...	47
<i>Demolition Orders</i>							
Sec. 17, H.A. 1957	—	—	1	16	7	...	24
<i>Closing Orders</i>							
Sec. 17, H.A. 1957	—	—	—	23	14	...	37
<i>Closing Orders</i>							
Sec. 18, H.A. 1957	—	—	4	17	4	...	25
<i>Undertakings to Repair</i>	—	—	3	1	7	...	11
<i>Squatters' Hutments</i>	—	—	7	4	9	...	20
<i>Exclusions from Programme</i>	—	—	37	10	—	...	47
							498
Outstanding Balance of five year programme ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

*Housing Requirements.*—At the end of the year there were 31 families awaiting rehousing from operative Orders.

## Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

*Dwellings to Replace Slums.*—Certificates of Displacement in respect of families displaced as a result of action taken to deal with insanitary houses were submitted to the Borough Treasurer, the latest position being :—

Year	Individual Unfit Houses			Clearance Orders			Totals		
	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families
1955	6	21	6	—	—	—	6	21	6
1956	31	132	34	—	—	—	31	132	34
1957	35	128	36	4	5	4	39	133	40
1958	32	86	33	56	152	62	88	238	95
1959	39	116	39	11	35	12	50	151	51
	143	481	148	71	192	78	214	675	226

## Improvement Grants

### Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

### House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

*Discretionary Grants Completed.*—The following properties were improved during the year :—

<i>Address</i>					<i>Owner-Occupied</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
27 Beaumont Street, Blyth ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10 Woodbine Terrace, Blyth ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
North Farm Cottage, South Newsham...	...	...	...	...	—	1
South Farm Cottage, South Newsham	...	...	...	...	—	1
1/2 Seaton Delaval Hall Gardens	...	...	...	...	—	2
1 to 8 inclusive, Harbord Terrace	...	...	...	...	—	8
Isabella Colliery Improvement ...	...	...	...	...	—	178
					2	190

Total houses improved to date under the respective Acts are given in the table on Page 30.

## PENDING

*Forster Memorial Homes, Cowpen Colliery.*—In January the Council approved a sum of £6,896 10s. 0d. as being the amount of estimated expenses to be incurred in connection with the proposed improvements and a maximum annual grant of £443 0s. 6d. for twenty years, subject to Ministerial approval. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government subsequently approved a sum of £6,547 6s. 6d. as being acceptable for grant, but imposed a limit of £272 for annual loss purposes.

In view of this reduction in grant aid the works had not been commenced by the end of the year, pending further negotiations by the applicants with the Ministry.

*Standard Grants.*—The introduction of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, with a maximum grant aid of £155 for the provision of five essential amenities, marked a further stage in the improvement programme, and at the end of the year five properties had been inspected and one application approved.

*British Railway Properties, Bebside and South Newsham.*—At the beginning of the year a full survey was carried out of the 16 dwellings at South Newsham and ten dwellings at Bebside, and detailed information submitted to the British Transport Commission with a view to the modernisation of the properties by means of Improvement Grants.

*General.*—The completion of the Isabella Colliery Improvement Scheme (178 houses) and Harbord Terrace (eight houses) would appear to be a marked advance in the improvement of sub-standard dwellings, but it is regrettable that since the adoption of the grant aid facilities, only some 220 dwellings have been improved.

The introduction of the new Standard Grants with their reduced facility requirements and relaxed conditions may stimulate owners to speed up improvement progress, but I am of the opinion that the only effective means of carrying out large scale modernisation would be the provision of additional grant aid to local authorities to cover the cost of essential repairs where suitable blocks of property were acquired. By this means, properties which are not considered by private owners to be suitable for improvement as an economic proposition, but which have a further useful life, could be preserved.



## Discretionary Grants

Year	Properties Surveyed	APPLICATIONS			COST		COMPLETED		IN PROGRESS
		Properties	Refused	Approved	Approved £	Grant £	No.	Grants £	
1954	—	10	—	—	—	—	10	—	
1955	54	24	5	19	5,602	2,796	1	120	
1956	25	9	—	9	2,771	1,384	8	1,126	
1957	52	186	—	186	61,198	30,598	1	76	
1958	17	14	1	13	7,969	3,932	8	1,342	
1959	55	9	1	8	3,456	1,727	192	32,713	
	203	252	7	235	80,996	40,437	220	35,397	
1959		8	—	8	6,896	75%	£443 0s. 6d.		
		(Forster Memorial Homes)			Nett Annual Loss.	Reduced by Ministry of Housing and Local Government to £272.			

## Standard Grants

1959	5	1	—	1	—	115
		967 (Council owned)—for provision of wash-hand basins.				

## Houses for Agricultural Population

### COMPLETED

*Seaton Red House Farm, Seaton Delaval.*—The two houses to be erected (see Page 31, Annual Report, 1958) were completed during the year.

### IN PROGRESS

*High and Low Horton Farms, Bebside.*—Applications were received from the Seaton Delaval Estate on behalf of Lord Hastings for assistance under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, in connection with the construction of two houses at High Horton Farm and four houses at Low Horton Farm, Bebside.

Approval was given by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 17th July, 1959, and construction of the dwellings was well advanced at the end of the year.

The modernisation by means of grants of Harbord Terrace, Seaton Delaval Hall Gardens and Gloucester Lodge Cottages; the elimination of Silver Hill, Seaton Village, Seaton Lodge Cottages, Seaton Sluice and South Farm Cottages, Bebside, by means of slum clearance and individual orders, together with the new construction programme by means of grant aid, has achieved during recent years the virtual elimination in the Borough of the “Olde Worlde Cottage” so beloved by artists but so reeking with dampness, decay and disrepair and lacking in modern amenities, and there is no regret for their passing.

## Acquisition of Houses

Some 45 properties were inspected and the following progress report is submitted regarding houses offered to the Council for purchase.

### *Address*

87/89 Newsham Road, Blyth	...	...	Referred to District Valuer.
30 Middleton Street, Blyth	...	...	do.
45 Beaconsfield Street, Blyth	...	...	do.
21/23 Nixon Terrace, Blyth	...	...	do.
20 Barnard Street, Blyth	...	...	do.
19 Dalmatia Terrace, Blyth	...	...	do.
49 Woodbine Terrace, Blyth	...	...	do.
86/88 Park Road, Blyth	...	...	do.
11 Rosamond Place, Blyth	...	...	do.
98/100 Kingsway, Blyth	...	...	do.
10 Barnard Street, Blyth	...	...	do.
657/659 Plessey Road	...	...	Unsuitable.
10 Carlton Street	...	...	do.
7 Middleton Street	...	...	do.

*Address*

53/55 Bondicar Terrace ... ..	Unsuitable.
73/75 Delaval Terrace ... ..	do.
6/8 Crown Street ... ..	do.
73/75 Salisbury Street ... ..	do.
24-32 Robert Street ... ..	do.
2/4 Bishopton Street ... ..	do.
25/27 William Street ... ..	Offer withdrawn.
58/60 Sidney Street ... ..	do.
540 Plessey Road ... ..	do.
87 Plessey Road ... ..	do.
84/86 Beaumont Street ... ..	do.
5 Newlands Road... ..	No action.
43/43½ Wright Street ... ..	Acquired.
22/24 Elliott Street ... ..	do.
757/759 Plessey Road ... ..	do.
47 Woodbine Terrace ... ..	do.
38 Lynn Street ... ..	do.

*Coomassie Road Housing Scheme.*—At the end of the year negotiations were well advanced for the purchase of certain owner-occupied and tenanted properties in the area, with a view to subsequent demolition and re-development.

## Rent Act, 1957

The following table shows the action taken by the Department since the inception of the Act.

### CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

	1957	1958	1959	Totals
1. Application by tenants ... ..	43	46	12	101
2. Decision not to issue Certificate ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
3. Decision to issue :				
(a) some of the defects ... ..	23	28	9	60
(b) all defects ... ..	16	21	3	40
4. Undertakings by Landlords :				
(a) accepted ... ..	8	25	7	40
(b) refused ... ..	2	3	Nil.	5
5. Certificates issued ... ..	24	28	5	57
6. Applications for Cancellation ... ..	2	10	10	22
7. Objections by Tenants ... ..	Nil.	4	4	8
8. Cancellations Refused ... ..	Nil.	2	Nil.	2
9. Certificates Cancelled ... ..	1	12	9	22

### CERTIFICATES AS TO REMEDYING OF DEFECTS

10. Applications by Tenants for Certificates of Non-Compliance with Undertaking :				
Issued (a) Whole ... ..	Nil.	14	4	18
(b) Part ... ..	Nil.	8	7	15
11. Applications by Landlords for Certificate of Compliance with Undertaking :				
(a) Issued ... ..	Nil.	7	5	12
(b) Refused ... ..	Nil.	1	1	12

## Houses for Disabled Persons

*Houses for Disabled Persons.*—A person, bodily disabled and doomed to live the remaining years in a wheel chair or with crutches, requires housing of a special type. This is more evident where the disabled person is the housewife.

Where a wheelchair housewife has the determination to continue her household duties in spite of her disability, an effort should be made to help her.

Basically she requires :

(a) no stairs ; (b) wide passages ; (c) sliding doors ; (d) low windows ; (e) special kitchen benches ; (f) no more than one solid fuel fire, and central heating if possible.

In 1959 Blyth Corporation decided to build two bungalows incorporating these features. It is hoped that they will be completed early in 1960.

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the year ended 31st December, 1959

		Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—			Persons	Families
(1)	Houses unfit for human habitation ... ..	57	Nil	Nil
(2)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3)	Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas :—				
(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	4	39	12
(5)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H. ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6)	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7)	Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—				
(8)	Under Sec. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	16	70	22
(9)	Under Secs. 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10)	Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	13	37	13

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—						By Owner	By Local Authority
(11)	After informal action by Local Authority	...	...			33	Nil
(12)	After formal notice under :						
	(a) P.H. Acts	...	...	...	...	72	Nil
	(b) Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...			Nil	Nil
(13)	Under Sec. 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	...			5	Nil

  

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957) :—						No. of houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. 1.
Position at end of Year						(1)	(2)
(14)	Retained for temporary accommodation	...				Nil	Nil
	(a) under Sec. 48	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
	(b) under Sec. 17 (2)	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
	(c) under Sec. 46	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
(15)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Secs. 34 or 53	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

  

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—							
(16)	Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

## HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

	1958		1959	
	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Un-aided</i>	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Un-aided</i>
HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1959 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	70	Nil.	58	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor	Nil.	Nil.	27	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent—prefabricated—Contractor	50	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES IN PROGRESS, 31/12/59 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	58	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor	9	Nil.	41	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional	2	51	2	113
HOUSES APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
	44	Nil.	22	2
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY COUNCIL UP TO 31/12/59 :				
Permanent Traditional			2,241	Nil.
Permanent Non-traditional			150	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F.			72	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Aluminium			59	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional			2	255
Conversions			Nil.	Nil.
HOUSING PROVIDED UNDER THE HOUSING (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION) ACT, 1944 :			150	Nil.



# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Part II—Sanitation and Buildings

### FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

A total of 105 premises were treated during the year for the eradication of insect pests ; as in former years the principal source of complaint being infestation by cockroaches, principally in the older properties, and by mite infestation on new housing estates. (See page 37, Annual Report, 1958).

*Household Effects.*—The collection and disposal of unwanted household effects is a service provided by the Borough Engineer's Department by arrangement with the Health Department, and that increasing advantage of this service is being taken by the public is shown by the following figures :—

1947—1956 (10 years)	...	...	2,401	articles of bedding and furnishings.
1957	...	...	533	do.
1958	...	...	572	do.
1959	...	...	1,072	do.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Following the detailed report issued in 1954 on all the public conveniences in the Borough, further improvement was effected during the year by the construction by the Borough Engineer's Department of the new conveniences in Union Street.

In addition to the overall improvements carried out during the past five years by the provision of such essential amenities as wash-hand basins, hot and cold water supply, sanitary towel incinerators and dispensers, new facilities have been provided as follows :—

1954	New dual Public Convenience, Broadway.
1956	New dual Public Convenience, rear of Miniature Golf Hut, Links and Foreshore. New dual Public Convenience, adjacent Astley Car Park, Links and Foreshore. Children's Convenience, Ridley Park. Dual Convenience, Beach Road (Constructed by Blyth Harbour Commissioners).
1957	Additional accommodation and improvements, Ferry Street. New conveniences and Waiting Room, Cowpen Cemetery Lodge.
1959	New dual convenience, Union Street. New dual convenience, Briardale Road (Under construction).

Periodic inspections are made by the Public Health Inspectors as to cleanliness, fitting and fitments, and information on any deficiencies forwarded to the Borough Engineer.

### Part III—Nuisances

The continued progress of new house building since the war, coupled with increased household pride and do-it-yourself activities is resulting in a decline in minor complaints to the Department, those received principally relating to the more serious housing defects, particularly dampness.

Rising and penetrative dampness is becoming increasingly prevalent in the older houses in the town which were constructed with solid walls and without damp-proof courses or sub-floor concrete, and investigation of rotted and holed flooring frequently reveals tidal and surface water at sub-floor level.

Whilst every effort is made to effect repair and improvement, the cost of adequate damp-proof measures is sometimes considerable and is frequently only achieved after considerable pressure by the Department.

#### COLLIERY SPOILBANKS AND COAL DISPOSAL POINTS

*Spoilbanks.*—Periodic inspections of the various spoilbanks revealed little cause for complaint, the general picture being :—

New Delaval ...	(Discontinued). Slight combustion. Water spraying in progress.
Isabella ...	(Discontinued). Slight combustion. No water spraying pending burning out of cone and eventual levelling. All waste now barged to sea via Bates Colliery.
Horton Grange	Continued tipping in progress with water spraying and consolidation.

*Coal Disposal Points.*—Due to economic factors it was found necessary to deposit considerable amounts of deep-mined and open-cast coal stocks within the Borough, and I am indebted to the Area General Manager of the National Coal Board and the Regional Opencast General Manager for the following figures of stockpiling :—

Site		Jan. 1959 Tons	Dec. 1959 Tons
DEEP-MINED			
Hathery Lane (Bebside)	... ..	4,600	20,500
Mill Pit Disposal Point	... ..	200	1,700
New Delaval	... ..	53,800	188,000
OPEN-CAST			
Bebside Disposal Point	... ..	485,159	602,813

The deposit of coal at New Delaval gave rise to considerable dust nuisance to the residents, and the co-operation of the National Coal Board was sought and immediately given to minimise the annoyance. At the request of the Health Department extensive water pipe lines were laid over the area to provide fine mist spraying and coal lorries were, as far as possible, re-routed or covered. Although the nuisance, particularly during westerly gales, can not be said to be cured, action so far taken has minimised the problem.

Complaint was also received from the residents of the Crofton area objecting to stockpiling, and members of the Council together with the Medical Officer of Health discussed the problem with representatives of the National Coal Board, who gave assurances that no coal stocking would take place on Mondays, which is generally a washing day, or when an appreciable wind is blowing in the direction of the houses, but that in order to allow the Horton Grange Colliery to work without interruption it would be necessary to utilise the site, and that the Board did not envisage any substantial stocking during 1960 and they expected to be able to avoid further use of the site.

In addition to the above, the National Coal Board have obtained planning permission on a temporary basis for extension to the Bebside site and a further site at South Newsham.

## Part IV—Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three sources and the total amount consumed during the year was :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Amount, Gallons</i>
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. ... ..	482,210,000
Tynemouth Water Co. via Seaton Valley U.D.C. ... ..	7,473,000
Tynemouth Water Co. direct ... ..	1,262,000
National Coal Board (Hepscott) ... ..	50,581,000
Total ...	<u>541,526,000</u>

## BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Out of 77 samples taken, 62 were of a satisfactory bacteriological purity. Of the remaining 15, only four were found to be unsatisfactory as supplied to the consumer, the remainder being taken prior to chlorination, at source, or after sand filtration only.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Details of samples of domestic water supply are set out on pages 47—49 and the reports of the Public Analyst state that they are of satisfactory organic purity and free from deposit, odour or taste and that the water is suitable for a public supply.

Samples were also submitted in connection with cellar flooding and discolouration and the reports of the Analyst were of considerable assistance in remedying the complaints.

### Part V—Prevention, Treatment and Notification of Infectious Diseases

Work by the Public Health Inspectors entailed visits in connection with a small number of Dysentery notifications, together with investigations and contact tracing of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases.

There was one minor outbreak of food poisoning in the last week of the year. A report on this is included by the Medical Officer of Health.

### Part VI—Mortuaries and Post-Mortem Rooms

The Mortuary was used on 38 occasions, details being :—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Post-mortems</i>
Borough of Blyth... ..	30	18
Bedlington Urban District Council ... ..	4	2
River Blyth Port Health Authority ... ..	4	2

As heretofore, the Rodent Officer continued as Mortuary Attendant and his services are greatly appreciated.



## Part XI—Miscellaneous

*Watercourses*.—Complaint was made of the condition of the watercourse from Tynedale Drive to the River Blyth, which was polluted by spoilheap and coal stocking ground drainage, and a sample of water submitted for chemical analysis gave the following result :—

“ Turbidity ... ..	Turbid, settles slowly.
Colour ... ..	Orange.
Odour ... ..	None.
pH value ... ..	3.5
Character of suspended matter...	Orange, finely divided, (oxides of iron).
Suspended matter ... ..	70 parts per million.
Grease ... ..	None.
Chlorine as chlorides ... ..	83.4
Nitrogen as nitrates ... ..	Trace.
Free Ammonia ... ..	14.2
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.2
Oxygen absorbed in four hours	9.6
Dissolved Oxygen ... ..	3.5
B.O.D. ... ..	3.1
Free Chlorine ... ..	None.
Phenols ... ..	None.
Methylene Blue Stability ... ..	—
Total Solids ... ..	8470.0
Mineral matter ... ..	6745.0
Acidity expressed as $H_2SO_4$ ... ..	338.1
Sulphate ... ..	Very large amount.

“ This sample of water is strongly acid with sulphuric acid, derived, no doubt, by oxidation of sulphur compounds from the spoil heap.

“ Unless the water is very considerably diluted by the water of the stream or river into which this burn flows it would be lethal to fish life.”

In conjunction with this, discussions took place between the Borough Engineer, the Northumberland and Tyneside River Board and the National Coal Board with a view to (a) piping of the burn for a distance of some  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -miles to the river, or (b) the construction of an effluent treatment plant at the Bebside Disposal Point. No final agreement on these points had been reached by the end of the year.

In addition to the pollution mentioned, considerable annoyance is still being caused by the deposit of miscellaneous debris in the stream. Certain information was obtained from Messrs. J. M. Clark & Sons as to riparian owners, and the lower reaches were cleansed, but up to the present it has not been possible to ascertain the ownership of the section from the main highway to the allotments at the rear of the Sidney Arms, the respective parties having disclaimed ownership or other responsibility. Unfortunately this is the section in which the bed of the watercourse has become filled with debris and silt and which is a contributory factor to the flooding of the highway. Efforts are still being made to have this section adequately cleansed.



*Moveable Dwellings.*—The publication of the report “Caravans as Homes” by Sir Arton Wilson, K.B.E., C.B., spotlighted the difficulties under which local and planning authorities labour in an attempt to control caravan sites. In our own particular case the years roll by and the condition of the North Farm Site becomes more and more intolerable. A recent survey showed that there were 54 vehicles of various descriptions, comprising 20 trailer caravans, 20 equipment vehicles, three motorised caravans, the property of the Showmen’s Guild, together with 11 private trailer caravans, parked cheek by jowl on a plot of land slightly less than three-quarters of an acre.

Pending development of a permanent residential caravan site in some part of the Borough, as yet undecided, the County Planning Authority have indicated that “they will be unwilling to take action for the removal of unauthorised caravans in the Blyth District until these consultations are completed.”

*General.*—Routine visits were paid to premises for the purpose of the Factories Acts, Shops Act, Pet Animals Act and Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act.

## THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

*Prior Approvals.*—Applications were received from the National Coal Board for formal approval under Section 3 of the Act to the installation of furnaces at New Pithead Baths, Isabella Colliery; and from the Northumberland County Council for new furnaces to be installed at Cowpen House, Cowpen Road, and the new Ambulance Depot, Wright Street, and approvals were subsequently issued.

*Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.*—Monthly readings from the five lead peroxide gauges and three deposit gauges were continued as described in previous Annual Reports, and details from these are given on pages 50 and 51.

### DEPOSIT GAUGES

#### *Winter*

Highest Monthly Reading ...	Fire Station, Union St., February, 1959 ...	37.39
Lowest Monthly Reading ...	Bebside County Secondary School, February, 1959 ...	4.42
Season Average ... ..	All gauges ... ..	13.82

#### *Summer*

Highest Monthly Reading ...	Fire Station, Union St., July 1959, ...	26.21
Lowest Monthly Reading ...	Bebside County Secondary School, August, 1959 ...	4.74
Seasonal Average ... ..	All gauges ... ..	11.88

Figures given as tons per square mile.

## LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES

### *Winter*

Highest Monthly Reading ...	Morpeth Road County Primary School,	December, 1958 ...	2.34
Lowest Monthly Reading ...	Ridley Park, March, 1959 ...	... ..	0.72
Seasonal Average ...	All gauges ...	... ..	1.34

### *Summer*

Highest Monthly Reading ...	Morpeth Road County Primary School,	June, 1959 ...	1.36
Lowest Monthly Reading ...	Ridley Park, August, 1959 ...	... ..	0.31
Seasonal Average ...	All gauges ...	... ..	0.70

Figures expressed as milligrams per 100 sq. c.m. per day.

*Inspection of Plant.*—A survey of industrial plant was completed during 1959 and action is being taken by the Department to ensure the co-operation of the owners in efficient maintenance and improvement. This will obviously take some time, particularly from an economic view, but a good start has been made in the supervision and prior approval of new furnaces and certain replacements of outdated equipment.

It was found necessary to serve a number of preliminary notices regarding smoke emission, but co-operation with the plant operators concerned produced the desired improvements.

*Smoke Control Areas.*—In May, 1959, the Council instructed the Department to submit a report on the possibility of declaring the rapidly developing area of Seaton Sluice a smoke control area, and during the ensuing months a house-to-house survey was made to inform householders of the principles involved, to answer their queries and to ascertain public opinion.

At the same time, inspection was made of all fireplaces and other fuel burning appliances, and essential information obtained as to the number of unapproved appliances in order to provide the Health Committee with an estimate of the cost and as complete a picture of the problem as possible.

Arrangements were also made with the Northern Gas Board for certain gas coke tests to be carried out at selected houses, in order to ascertain the efficiency of various types of fires for coke burning, and for a Mobile Exhibition to visit the area to answer queries and give information.

The report was ready for submission to the Health Committee at the end of the year.

*General.*—It is unnecessary to comment at this stage on the reaction of householders in receipt of concessionary coal to these proposals. I would, however, suggest to the appropriate Government Departments an alternative method of acquiring a reduction in domestic smoke emission which, in my opinion, could be achieved by agreement rather than compulsion. In simple terms, grants have been available for the improvement of houses since 1949, and if comparable grants were made available to occupiers solely for the purpose of providing approved fuel burning appliances, subject to their undertaking to burn approved fuels only, the reduction of smoke emission would be considerably speeded up. Although this would not produce smoke control areas of defined size and location, the progressive replacement of outworn or unsuitable appliances on the lines suggested would achieve the same overall effect.

It may well be stated that certain administrative difficulties might be anticipated in so far as the allocation of selected fuels which at present can be based on the needs of specific areas, but to offset this would be the considerable reduction in administration which is necessary in the setting up of smoke control areas.

*General Services.*—The following incidental services were carried out during the year :—

Number of houses treated for insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	599
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of houses disinfected by request	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of items of bedding, furniture and clothing destroyed by request	...	...	...	...	...	1,072
Number of dogs humanely destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	145
Number of cats humanely destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	70

With the exception of the destruction of dogs for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made, these services are provided free of charge to the public, and do much to promote the well-being of the town.

## BURIAL ACT, 1857—EXHUMATIONS

In connection with road improvements carried out at the junction of Northumberland Street and Wellington Street, certain human remains were exhumed and re-interred in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard under the supervision of the Health Department and to the satisfaction

of the Vicar. In accordance with the licence granted by the Home Office, the removals, which were effected with due care and attention to decency, took place during the period 1st to 9th December, and some 55 wooded shells were re-interred.

### **Overseas Students**

At the Council Meeting held on the 12th November, 1959, the Mayor, Alderman George Colpitts, welcomed four overseas Public Health Inspectors who were attending a six-months' Course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The party comprised Messrs. Chua Kong Seng of Brunei (Borneo), C. E. Haynes of the West Indies, I. S. Henry of British Guiana and H. Smith of British Honduras.

The visitors, accompanied by the County Health Inspector and myself, had earlier made a tour of certain farms; the new housing estate at Seaton Sluice where inspections were made of all types of housing; newly constructed and improved farm workers' dwellings; controlled tipping and land reclamation at Meggie's Burn; the slaughterhouse and a cooked meat manufacturer's premises. This was followed by tea at the Star and Garter Hotel in company with the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. A. Moore, B.A., and then by attendance at the Council Meeting where the guests were officially welcomed and later introduced to the Members of the Council. The overseas visitors were very appreciative of the hospitality extended to them by the Mayor and Council and impressed by the high standard of public services in the Borough.



# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

Form 572 (Revised)

## **Part I of the Act**

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	19	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	119	17	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	4	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	1	1		1	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...					
(c) Not separate for Sexes...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...					
Total ...	1	1	Nil	1	Nil



## Factories, 1959

	Mechanical Power	No Mechanical Power
Bakeries ... ..	13	—
Blacksmith ... ..	1	—
Boiler Sealing ... ..	1	—
Boot and Shoe Repairers ... ..	5	—
Building Operations ... ..	4	—
Cabinet Making ... ..	—	1
Car Spraying and Coach Work ... ..	4	—
Clothing Alterations ... ..	—	3
Clothing Repairs ... ..	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers ... ..	6	—
Coppersmiths ... ..	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations ... ..	1	—
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage ... ..	11	1
Corn Grinders ... ..	1	—
Dairies ... ..	1	—
Dry Cleaners ... ..	2	—
Electrical Engineers ... ..	1	—
Electro Plating ... ..	1	—
Engineering ... ..	5	—
Foundry ... ..	2	—
Garage and Battery Charging ... ..	16	—
Gas Works ... ..	1	—
Ice-Cream Manufacturers ... ..	6	—
Joinery, Stone-crushing, Establishments ... ..	8	3
Marine Store and Timber ... ..	1	—
Pickles ... ..	1	—
Plastics ... ..	1	—
Plumbers ... ..	1	1
Polishing ... ..	—	2
Potato Crisps ... ..	1	—
Printing ... ..	3	—
Radio and Electrical Repairs ... ..	—	4
Saddlery and Harness ... ..	—	1
Sculptor ... ..	1	—
Ship Building and Repairs ... ..	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding ... ..	1	—
Sign Writing ... ..	—	1
Slaters and Filers ... ..	—	1
Slaughtering ... ..	1	—
Soft Drinks and Bottling ... ..	1	—
Spring Mattresses ... ..	1	—
Sugar Confectionery ... ..	1	—
Timber Impregnation ... ..	1	—
Timber Merchants ... ..	6	—
Transformer Stations ... ..	1	—
TV. Repairs... ..	2	—
Tyre Retreading ... ..	1	—
Upholstery ... ..	2	—
	119	19

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During 1959 the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer.

Description	No.	Baits laid	Traps laid. Holes gassed	Ozs. Poison bait taken	No. of Bodies		Est. Kill Rats	No. of Visits
					Rats	Mice		
Dwellinghouses ... ..	74	344	8	251	4	47	18	175
Food shops ... ..	24	343	5	272	4	47	14	64
Other shops ... ..	6	41	2	20	—	23	—	16
Allotments ... ..	8	45	—	228	23	5	71	29
Farms ... ..	8	155	115 H.G.	313	36	11	191	25
Gardens ... ..	32	163	4	450	43	6	167	104
Piggeries ... ..	1	5	—	30	5	—	10	4
Bakeries ... ..	3	40	3	14	—	3	—	7
Ballroom ... ..	1	65	—	32	—	8	—	3
Church Hall ... ..	1	10	—	8	—	3	—	2
Cinemas ... ..	3	183	—	78	—	22	—	9
Building Sites ... ..	2	10	—	29	1	—	16	6
Factories and Warehouses...	6	152	6	102	6	24	35	24
Garages ... ..	2	16	—	26	6	—	8	5
Cafes ... ..	3	28	—	13	—	2	—	7
Canteens ... ..	14	39	—	39	2	3	6	14
Licensed Premises ... ..	7	106	—	111	5	20	16	21
N.C.B. properties ... ..	2	80	—	156	11	—	45	7
B.R. properties ... ..	1	28	—	12	—	3	—	2
Offices ... ..	2	19	—	29	1	1	6	6
Schools ... ..	3	26	—	13	—	—	—	7
Shipyard ... ..	1	108	—	44	15	5	72	5
Timber yard... ..	1	8	—	41	3	—	10	3
Council properties ... ..	66	158	98 H.G.	345	22	20	150	63
Refuse tips ... ..	7	1,033	66 H.G.	1,788	296	—	1,158	50
Sewers (two treatments) ...	—	469	—	139	7	—	44	376
		manholes						
Totals ... ..	278	3,205 469 manholes	28 traps 279 holes gassed	4,589	490	253	2,037	1,034

In addition to the above treatments the following surveys were carried out.

Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural Premises	Business Premises
50	36	73	404

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

## Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year for analysis :

### CHEMICAL

	<i>Name of Source</i>	<i>Sample Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
1	Tynemouth Water.	Domestic supply, 26 St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice ... ..	1
2	Tynemouth Water.	Domestic supply, Fountain Head Cafe, Seaton Sluice ... ..	2
3	Newcastle and Gateshead Water.	Domestic supply, " Dinsdale," Marine Terrace, Blyth ... ..	1
4	Newcastle and Gateshead Water.	Mains supply, Co-operative Dairy	1
5	Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle Water.	Mains supply, Corporation Depot, Albion Yard, Blyth ... ..	1
6	Barmoor.	Standpipe at pithead ... ..	1
7	Stream.	Watercourse, Tynedale Drive to River Blyth ... ..	1
8	Water Sewage.	Bebside Opencast ... ..	1
9	Water Percolation.	Cellar, Blyth & District Social Club ... ..	2

### BACTERIOLOGICAL

	<i>Source</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
1	Newcastle and Gateshead Water...	19	19	—
2	Hepscott water before chlorination	18	11	6 1 suspicious
3	Mixed Newcastle and Hepscott after chlorination ... ..	16	15	1
4	Tynemouth Water ... ..	19	15	3 1 suspicious
5	Hepscott (Barmoor Pit) ... ..	5	—	5
		<hr/> 77	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 15
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/> 2 suspicious

# ANALYSIS OF WATER, 1959

## Chemical

Tynemouth water from tap at 26 St. Ronan's Drive, Seaton Sluice. Sample marked 4/CW/59.			Water from tap at "Dinsdale," Marine Terrace, Blyth. Sample marked 6/CW/59.	
Parts per million.			Parts per million.	
...	125	...	162	...
...	14.2	...	14.2	...
...	0.04	...	0.02	...
...	0.06	...	0.10	...
...	None.	...	0.5	...
...	8.1	...	2.9	...
...	71	...	110	...
...	7	...	35	...
...	64	...	75	...
...	None.	...	None.	...
...	0.2	...	0.1	...
...	(Hazen degrees 90).	...	(Hazen degrees 10).	...
...	Clear and pale orange yellow.	...	Clear and extra pale yellow.	...
...	Satisfactory.	...	Satisfactory.	...
...	Satisfactory.	...	Satisfactory.	...
...	6.9	...	7.0	...
...	Parts per million.	...	Parts per million.	...

### Chemical Results :

Total solids dried at 180°C.	...
Chlorine as chlorides	...
Free ammonia	...
Albuminoid ammonia	...
Nitrogen as nitrates	...
Oxygen absorbed (four hours at 80°F.)	...
Total hardness	...
Permanent hardness	...
Temporary hardness	...
Lead and Copper...	...
Iron	...
Appearance and Colour	...
Smell and Taste	...
Microscopical examination of deposit	...
pH Value	...

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity, its colour is high but it is clear and free from odour or taste. The water is suitable for a Public Supply.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It has been adequately filtered, is of good colour and is free from taste or odour. The water is suitable for a Public Supply.

*Chemical Results :*

Total solids dried at 180°C.	...	...	...
Chlorine as chlorides	...	...	...
Free ammonia	...	...	...
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	...
Oxygen absorbed (four hours at 27°C.)	...	...	...
Total hardness	...	...	...
Non-carbonate hardness	...	...	...
Carbonate hardness	...	...	...
Lead and Copper	...	...	...
Iron	...	...	...
Appearance and Colour	...	...	...
Smell and Taste	...	...	...
Microscopical examination of deposit	...	...	...
pH Value	...	...	...

Mixed Newcastle and Hepscoott water taken from Corporation Depot, Morpeth Road, Blyth. Sample marked 7/CW/59.		Sample of Barnoor Pit water from standpipe at pit head, supplied to Borough of Blyth as Hepscoott water. Sample marked 8/CW/59.	
385	Parts per million.	395	Parts per million.
23.1	" "	28.4	" "
None.	" "	0.06	" "
Trace.	" "	0.02	" "
0.60	" "	0.20	" "
1.4	" "	1.60	" "
298	" "	295	" "
36	" "	None.	" "
262	" "	295	" "
None.	" "	None.	" "
0.1	" "	0.1	" "
(Hazen degrees 5).	" "	(Hazen degrees 5).	" "
Clear and extra pale yellow.	" "	Cloudy and almost colourless.	" "
Satisfactory.	" "	Satisfactory.	" "
Satisfactory.	" "	See report.	" "
7.6	Parts per million.	7.0	Parts per million.

This sample of water is of very satisfactory organic purity. It is considerably harder than the supply examined in April, 1957, presumably because the mixture contains considerably more Hepscoott water than usual; this is also shown by the higher chloride figure. This water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is practically colourless but it contains a small amount of deposit consisting chiefly of coal dust and vegetable debris. This water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.



# BOROUGH OF BLYTH—LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES : STATISTICS, 1958-59

Figures expressed as milligrammes per 100 sq. cm. per day.

	Bebside C.S.S.	Morpeth C.P.S.	Rd. New C.S.S.	Ridley Park	Seaton Del. Hall	Total Deposit	Monthly Average all Gauges	Seasonal Average per Gauge
<b>WINTER SEASON, 1958/9 :</b>								
October ... ..	1.26	1.51	0.95	1.09	0.75	5.56	1.11	
November ... ..	1.14	1.48	0.97	1.13	1.18	5.90	1.18	
December ... ..	1.69	2.34	1.14	1.51	0.99	7.67	1.53	
January ... ..	1.60	1.81	1.16	1.55	1.17	7.29	1.46	1.34
February ... ..	1.90	2.14	1.27	1.42	1.33	8.06	1.61	—
March ... ..	1.28	1.75	1.10	0.72	0.81	5.66	1.13	
Totals ... ..	8.87	11.03	6.59	7.42	6.23	40.14	8.02	
Monthly Average ... ..	1.48	1.84	1.10	1.24	1.04	6.69	1.34	
<b>SUMMER SEASON, 1959</b>								
April ... ..	1.14	0.66	1.06	0.78	1.27	4.91	0.98	
May ... ..	0.69	1.12	0.39	0.54	0.62	3.36	0.67	
June ... ..	0.44	1.36	0.41	0.37	0.39	2.97	0.59	
July ... ..	0.50	0.75	0.55	0.45	0.53	2.78	0.56	0.70
August ... ..	0.47	0.68	0.45	0.31	0.37	2.28	0.46	—
September ... ..	1.32	1.12	1.00	0.74	0.64	4.82	0.96	
Totals ... ..	4.56	5.69	3.86	3.19	3.82	21.12	4.22	
Monthly Average ... ..	0.76	0.95	0.64	0.53	0.64	3.52	0.70	
<b>1957/8 WINTER :</b>								
Total ... ..	6.06	7.52	4.22	5.68	4.79	28.27	5.65*	1.41
Monthly ... ..	1.51	1.88	1.05	1.42	1.20	7.07	1.41*	—
<b>1958 SUMMER :</b>								
Total ... ..	4.81	6.75	3.42	3.98	2.87	20.83	4.16	0.69
Monthly ... ..	0.80	1.12	0.57	0.66	0.48	3.47	0.69	—
<b>1958/9 WINTER :</b>								
Total ... ..	8.87	11.03	6.59	7.42	6.23	40.14	8.02	1.34
Monthly ... ..	1.48	1.84	1.10	1.24	1.04	6.69	1.34	—
<b>1959 SUMMER :</b>								
Total ... ..	4.56	5.69	3.86	3.19	3.82	21.12	4.22	0.70
Monthly ... ..	0.76	0.95	0.64	0.53	0.64	3.52	0.70	—

\* First records four months only.

# C.E.A. DEPOSIT GAUGES—TOTAL SOLID DEPOSIT : STATISTICS, 1958-59

(Figures expressed as tons per square mile.)

	Blyth Fire Station	Bebside C.S.S.	Cowpen B.C.	Total Deposit	Monthly Average all Gauges	Seasonal Average per Gauge
<b>WINTER SEASON, 1958/9 :</b>						
October ... ..	17.53	11.37	6.07	34.97	11.66	
November ... ..	9.25	7.48	7.95	24.68	8.23	
December ... ..	22.53	11.70	9.40	43.63	14.54	
January ... ..	26.18	23.44	13.89	63.51	21.17	13.82
February ... ..	37.39	4.42	8.25	50.06	16.69	—
March ... ..	14.02	8.61	9.33	31.96	10.65	—
Totals ... ..	126.90	67.02	54.89	248.81	82.94	
Monthly Average ... ..	21.15	11.17	9.15	41.47	13.82	
<b>SUMMER SEASON, 1959 :</b>						
April ... ..	10.00	9.31	10.31	29.62	9.87	
May ... ..	11.79	5.32	6.85	23.96	7.99	
June ... ..	17.70	17.19	23.23	58.12	19.37	
July ... ..	26.21	8.21	10.27	44.69	14.89	11.88
August ... ..	7.80	4.74	8.02	20.56	6.85	—
September ... ..	12.31*	12.31*	12.31	36.93	12.31	—
Totals ... ..	85.81	57.08	70.99	213.88	71.28	
Monthly Average ... ..	14.30	9.51	11.83	35.65	11.88	
<b>1957/8 WINTER :</b>						
Total ... ..	106.96	58.51	67.51	232.98	83.21†	20.80
Monthly ... ..	26.74	14.63	22.50	58.25	20.80†	—
<b>1958 SUMMER :</b>						
Total ... ..	141.48	58.69	76.23	276.40	92.13	15.36
Monthly ... ..	23.58	9.78	12.70	46.06	15.36	—
<b>1958/9 WINTER :</b>						
Total ... ..	126.90	67.02	54.89	248.81	82.94	13.82
Monthly ... ..	21.15	11.17	9.15	41.47	13.82	—
<b>1959 SUMMER :</b>						
Total ... ..	85.81	57.08	70.99	213.88	71.28	11.88
Monthly ... ..	14.30	9.51	11.83	35.65	11.88	—

\* Estimate—Bottle broken at Lab.

† First record four months only.

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Towards the end of the year a start was made with a re-survey of all food premises in the Borough, and it is intended to proceed with this as rapidly as possible. Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory and no complaints were received from the public during the year. It is essential, however, that constant surveillance be maintained in order that even higher standards be achieved.

## FOOD PREMISES

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry, the following information is given regarding food premises in the Borough :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	14	Preserved Food	...	...	12
Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	23	Ice-Cream Manufacturers	...	...	4
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	14	Food Manufacturers	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	24	Food Warehouses	...	...	3
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	15	Wet Fish	...	...	4
General Dealers	...	...	...	77	Canteens	...	...	15
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	50	Hotels	...	...	4
Greengrocery	...	...	...	15	Dairies	...	...	6
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	43	Off Licences	...	...	6
Club Premises	...	...	...	14	Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	11

a total of 358.

## REGISTRATIONS

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	14
Butchers	...	...	...	...	24
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	9
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	15
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	4
Ice-Cream Retailers	...	...	...	...	97

There were 13 additional registrations for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

The undermentioned premises ceased to be used for the purpose for which they were registered and have been removed from the register.

Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	13
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The details of dairies registered, distributors of milk and licences under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations are as follows :—

Dairies ... ..	6
Distributors (in respect of 104 premises) ... ..	84
Licences—Sterilised ... ..	106
Sterilised (Supplementary) ... ..	1
Pasteurised ... ..	33
Pasteurised (Supplementary) ... ..	1
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	11
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary) ... ..	1

New registration of distributors amounted to 11 and removals from the register after ceasing to trade, five.

*Supply.*—The milk supply to the Borough remains the same as before, the two principal suppliers of pasteurised milk being the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and Coast Creameries, Ltd., together with a supply of sterilised milk from the Co-operative Society, Ltd., and the Newcastle Model Milk Co. Ltd. As the Borough is a “ Prescribed Area ” by an Order made under the Regulations, only Designated Milks are retailed, all of which are either pasteurised or sterilised, only a very small quantity of raw Tuberculin Tested milk being sold.

Regular sampling for efficiency of pasteurisation was continued by the County Public Health Inspector and the Health Department, and the results are given on page 58.

*Automatic Vending Machines.*—1959 saw the introduction in the Borough of automatic milk vending machines, and at the year end three of these machines were in use and two further machines were awaiting siting. The machines contain 132 half-pint waxed cartons of “ Tuberculin-Tested, Pasteurised ” milk pre-packed by the Milk Marketing Board Depot, Langley Bridge, Co. Durham. The milk is thermostatically controlled at a temperature of 40° F. and retails at 6d. per carton. A sample submitted for bacteriological examination satisfied the prescribed tests.

A questionnaire was submitted from the Association of Municipal Corporations dealing with certain administrative problems, and I am of the opinion that (a) there should be automatic date and time stamping of the cartons at

production source ; (b) there should be an automatic stop to the machine in the event of refrigeration breakdown. This latter point has, I believe, been adopted on later machines. Investigations have shown that the question of rapidity of renewal has not so far arisen as it is uneconomic for the distributor to allow the machine to remain idle or in a slow selling position. To offset this, arrangements are in hand for the licensing of a number of sites in order that the machines may be readily transferred in relation to demand.

*Milk Bottle Sterility.*—During the first six months exceptionally good results were obtained, but in spite of intensive efforts by the dairy department, the standard of milk bottle sterility declined during the latter half of the year.

During this period additional tests were carried out and advice and assistance obtained from the machine manufacturers, the County Health Inspector and the Health Department. De-scaling of the machine was carried out over a period, a variety of sterilising agents tried and it is hoped that these efforts will prove effective.

#### ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

One manufacturer ceased to produce during 1959 and the record of samples submitted for bacteriological analysis is as under :—

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>	<i>Total</i>
18	6	8	2	34
Satisfactory Approx. 70.6%		Unsatisfactory Approx. 29.4%		

The standard of bacteriological purity which declined during the year was, I believe, primarily due to structural and equipment modification being carried out by a manufacturer and the consequent difficulty in maintaining his otherwise high standard.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.

*Meat Inspection.*—Slaughtering took place on 264 days during 1958, necessitating 475 visits to the Abattoir by the Inspectors.

Details of slaughtering, meat inspection and overtime are given in the tables on pages 56 and 57.



*Hours of Slaughtering.*—In order to obtain 100% meat inspection it was necessary to work overtime on 135 days out of 264 (51%), and in addition, slaughtering took place on five Saturdays, 11 Sundays, Easter Monday, Whit Sunday and August Bank Holiday Monday.

*Animal Health.*—Although there was an increase in the number of animals slaughtered, there was a reduction in the number of “inspection units,” Circ. 15/58, from 42,606 for 1958 to 40,995 for 1959, due to the reduction in the number of cattle and pigs, with a corresponding increase in the number of sheep.

Only one cow, one calf, one sow and three sheep were entirely condemned, as set out in the table on page 56.

In complimenting the butchers for the high standard of animal retailed, one must pay tribute to the extremely valuable work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and in particular the Animal Health Division, without whose efforts over the past years the standard would not have so improved.

*Condemned Meat.*—The total weight of carcasses, carcase meat and organs found to be unsound was 5-tons, 8-cwts., 0-qrs., 12-lbs., the method of disposal being collection not less than twice weekly by Messrs. Tyneside Butchers' Bye-Products, Ltd., who recover animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers, glues, fats and chemicals.

All manure is collected weekly by the Borough Engineer's Department for agricultural purposes.

*Slaughtering Policy.*—Details of Government policy with regard to slaughterhouses was set out on pages 63 and 64 of the Annual Report for 1958, and in implementation of these The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and The Slaughterhouses (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 came into operation on the 1st January, 1959. The question of the Slaughterhouses Report as required by the Minister was under consideration at the end of the year.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS

*Unsound Food.*—Details of the quantities of canned and other foods surrendered and destroyed are given on page 58.

The general procedure was as set out in previous years.

*Restriction of Private Slaughterhouses.*—In accordance with the direction of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food issued in pursuance of his powers under Section 1 (3) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the Council on the 29th January, 1959, revoked the resolution restricting private slaughterhouses adopted by the Council on the 8th December, 1955.

# PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

## Animals Slaughtered Summary, 1959

Month	Bulls	Bull- ocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1959	Total 1958
January ...	1	126	42	10	—	445	264	888	946
February ...	—	123	31	14	—	388	248	804	881
March ...	—	123	41	12	2	380	274	832	906
April ...	3	141	21	8	1	320	279	773	863
May ...	—	130	9	10	—	332	207	688	669
June ...	1	113	44	10	—	421	205	794	763
July ...	—	94	44	8	—	481	173	800	787
August ...	—	100	57	10	—	613	194	974	768
September ...	1	94	68	13	—	767	243	1186	1001
October ...	3	109	45	13	2	637	255	1064	1011
November ...	—	122	52	15	—	576	290	1055	1003
December ...	2	101	38	25	1	435	407	1009	1098
Totals 1959 ...	11	1376	492	148	6	5795	3039	10867	
			2033						
Totals 1958 ...	12	1293	762	166	11	5113	3339		10696
			2244						

1959			
<i>Sows</i>	<i>Boars</i>	<i>Tups</i>	<i>Ewes</i>
491	5	5	49
1958			
584	6	4	13

It was found necessary to condemn the following carcasses, flesh and organs :

	No.	Weight in lbs.		Total	Disease
		<i>Carcase</i>	<i>Offal</i>		
Cow	1	520	70	590	Generalised Tuberculosis.
Calf	1	112	26	138	Anasarca.
Sow	1	297	40	337	Leukaemia.
Ewes	2	60	44	104	Emaciation and Oedema.
Sheep	1	89	10	99	Lymphatic Leukaemia.
	6	1,078	190	1,268	

The following part carcasses and organs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption :

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Cattle ... Part carcasses and/or organs ...	657	8,337
Sheep ... Part carcasses and/or organs ...	25	116
Pigs ... Part carcasses and/or organs ...	129	1,675
Beef ... Forequarters ...	1	130
... Hindquarters ...	3	377
... Trimmings ...	2	40
... Sirloin and flanks ...	1	86
Sheep ... Forequarter ...	1	15
Pigs ... Legs ...	5	64
	824	10,840

# Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1,879	148	6	5,795	3,039
Number inspected ... ..	1,879	148	6	5,795	3,039
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	1	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	384	15	—	22	78
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	20.4	10.1	16.6	0.4	2.6
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	69	13	—	—	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	3.6	8.7	—	—	1.3
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

## Details of Slaughtering, 1959

		Slaughtering		Overtime	Bank			Inspections
		Days	Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sundays	Holidays	
January ...	23	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	—	—	43
February ...	21	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	—	—	—	38
March... ..	23	13	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2	1	—	39
April ... ..	22	11	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—	—	41
May ... ..	20	10	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—	35
June ... ..	21	12	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	—	37
July ... ..	24	12	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2	—	—	42
August ... ..	22	8	8	—	1	1	—	40
September ...	21	11	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1	—	—	44
October ... ..	20	12	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1	—	—	41
November ...	21	12	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—	36
December ...	26	10	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	3	—	—	39
	264	135	146	5	11	2	—	475

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955

## Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

### DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN, 1959

Pasteurised Milk from Producer/Retailer inside the Borough.

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
By Borough 16	1 Void	17	Nil	34
By County Council 24	2 Void	26	Nil	52

### Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility.

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
41	29	20	90

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1955

## Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed :

	No. of Tins	lbs.	No.
Meat ... ..	1,069	901 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 packets
Milk ... ..	616		
Vegetables ... ..	2,473		10 packets
Puddings ... ..	206		4 packets
Fruit ... ..	1,051		2 packets
Fish ... ..	262		
Soups ... ..	275		
Chicken Fillets ... ..	27		
Cereals ... ..			7 packets
Cakes ... ..		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 packets
Cheese ... ..		21	11 packets
Salads ... ..	28		
Preserves ... ..	11		
Chickens ... ..	6		21
Sauces ... ..			3 bottles
Butter and Fats ... ..		58 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 packets
Bacon ... ..		20	
Sugar ... ..			7 packets
Cake Mixtures and Flour ... ..			26 packets
Jellies ... ..			4 jars

# SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspections

Number of inspections made during the year 1959	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Grand Total
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.														
Inspections following complaints—														
General ... ..	23	42	40	40	45		83	34	41	43		58	449	
Re-inspections re outstanding notices	70	65	63	59	46		96	60	46	48		55	608	
Dirty or Verminous premises	5	6	7	4	7		27	12	19	3		15	105	
Drainage ... ..	4	4	6	12	4		10	2	5	5		4	56	
Keeping of Animals	—	1	—	—	—		2	1	1	1		—	6	
Licensed Premises	—	—	—	7	1		3	—	2	2		1	16	
Moveable Dwellings	4	2	37	8	14		15	3	11	—		—	94	
Places of Public Entertainment	—	—	—	—	1		—	—	1	—		—	2	
Water Supplies	—	3	—	1	1		4	7	—	5		6	27	
Sanitary Conveniences	—	—	—	—	—		31	18	1	—		—	50	
Refuse Tips	—	—	—	—	3		7	1	2	—		1	14	
Mortuary	—	1	—	—	—		—	6	—	—		—	7	
Vacant Sites	3	5	1	5	8		14	1	11	1		2	51	
Interviews	24	24	16	17	22		41	27	26	18		33	248	
Holiday Accommodation	—	—	—	7	—		1	—	—	—		—	8	
Exhumations	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—		15	15	
													1,756	1,756



Number of inspections made during the year 1959	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Grand Total
<b>HOUSING ACT, 1957.</b>														
Investigations re Overcrowding	18	15	16	14	8		6	2	3	10		40	132	
Housing in Clearance Areas ...	4	—	5	—	—		12	1	4	—		1	27	
Corporation Houses ...	5	1	4	4	3		8	10	9	3		9	56	
Applications for interview re Re- housing and Exchanges ...	2	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—		5	7	
Housing Survey ...	15	23	70	2	19		26	5	6	14		32	212	
Interviews ...	18	15	15	8	17		27	16	19	23		15	173	
Proposed House Purchase ...	3	4	2	—	30		10	6	9	12		2	78	
<i>Part II.</i>														
Representations ...	2	5	4	6	8		8	—	4	24		2	63	
Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders—Re-inspections ...	16	10	8	8	9		15	17	12	12		15	122	
Repairs ...	1	—	1	—	—		2	1	—	—		—	5	
Undertakings ...	11	1	3	4	4		12	7	9	9		9	69	
Interviews ...	15	15	1	10	18		22	15	14	12		21	143	
<i>Part III.</i>														
Clearance Areas ...	—	—	—	—	—		3	1	—	—		—	4	
<b>HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT.</b>														
Applications re Improvement Grants	4	26	8	5	5		11	2	8	1		10	80	
Interviews re Improvement Grants	10	7	9	10	16		30	11	27	15		28	163	
Inspections re Improvement Grants (including Isabella Colliery) ...	12	31	49	42	6		18	3	4	18		5	188	
Mortgage Guarantee ...	—	—	—	—	3		—	—	—	—		—	3	
Agricultural Cottages ...	—	2	2	5	3		4	—	—	—		—	16	
<b>RENT ACT, 1957.</b>														
Applications for Certificate of Dis- repair and inspecting ...	2	9	4	5	2		4	6	4	1		—	37	
Interview re Certificate of Disrepair	10	11	16	9	17		15	12	8	9		18	125	
													1,703	3,459

Number of inspections made during the year 1959		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Grand Total
CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.															
Interviews	...	—	5	4	3	7		5	20	13	4		7	68	3,972
Inspection of Plants	...	—	—	1	7	2		11	21	7	—		4	53	
Lead Peroxide Gauges	...	—	5	5	5	5		15	5	—	10		10	60	
Spoilbanks	...	—	—	1	—	1		—	—	4	—		—	6	
Smoke Observations	...	—	—	1	—	—		3	—	1	22		2	29	
Smoke Nuisances	...	—	4	2	1	—		3	—	—	—		6	16	
Seaton Sluice—Survey	...	—	—	—	—	—		95	14	60	—		40	179	
Interviews	...	—	—	—	—	—		102	—	—	—		—	102	
														513	
FACTORIES ACT, 1937.															3,993
With Mechanical Power	...	2	—	—	3	3		2	3	1	3		—	17	
With no Mechanical Power	...	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	1		1	2	
Outworkers	...	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	—	—		1	2	
														21	
SHOPS ACT, 1950.															4,028
Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	...	—	1	1	4	—		1	1	18	6		3	35	
														35	
PESTS ACT, 1948.															4,406
Allotments	...	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	1	1		—	3	
Dwelling Houses	...	1	—	—	—	—		—	—	1	—		6	8	
Other Properties	...	6	1	—	—	—		—	2	1	—		2	12	
Council Properties	...	1	—	—	—	—		6	—	—	—		—	15	
Sewer Manholes	...	—	—	—	—	8		340	—	—	—		—	340	
														378	
PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.															4,417
Investigations made	...	—	1	—	—	—		—	—	5	3		2	11	
														11	

Number of inspections made during the year 1959											Grand Total
INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATIONS) ACTS.											
Investigations made ... ..	16	3	12	10	12	19	8	—	7	9	96
Investigations made re Dysentery (Re-Survey) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	147	147
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.											4,660
Abattoir—Meat Inspection ... ..	43	38	39	41	35	79	40	44	41	243	243
Examination of Unsound Foodstuffs	7	7	11	4	4	30	9	9	18	475	475
Bakehouses ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	114	114
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	4	4
Butchers' Shops ... ..	2	3	—	2	2	9	2	3	6	12	12
Fish and Chip Shops ... ..	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	3	3
Food Manufacturing ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	5	5
General Dealers' Shops ... ..	2	—	4	1	2	2	—	2	2	1	16
Greengrocery Shops ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	6	6
Grocery and Provisions	1	—	4	—	2	1	—	15	1	3	30
Preserved Food Shops	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	6	6
Wet Fish Shops ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	3
Ice Cream Premises :											
(a) Manufacturing ... ..	—	—	—	4	2	6	4	4	—	3	23
(b) Retail ... ..	—	3	1	5	2	3	2	—	3	2	21
Restaurants and Cafes	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	4	—	4
Market Stalls ... ..	—	—	—	12	—	15	—	18	19	66	130
Food Vehicles ... ..	5	—	—	10	—	—	—	1	—	4	20
Interviews ... ..	2	1	1	10	3	5	4	3	4	1	34
Sampling : Chemical—											
(a) Milk ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
(b) Water ... ..	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	1	1	3	11
(c) Mineral Water Bottles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bacteriological											
(a) Milk ... ..	2	2	2	2	1	8	6	8	2	4	37
(b) Milk Bottles ... ..	6	6	6	6	6	12	12	18	6	18	96
(c) Water ... ..	4	4	4	4	4	11	11	6	12	17	77
(d) Ice-Cream ... ..	—	—	—	7	—	13	3	8	—	—	31
(e) Other Specimens ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(f) Faeces ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	103	116
											1,309
											5,969

Number of inspections made during the year 1959	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Grand Total
MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.														
Dairies and Equipment ...	1	1	1	1	1		5	6	1	1		4	22	
Milk Shops ...	2	—	—	—	—		—	1	—	130		2	135	
Automatic Machines ...	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	—	—		—	1	
													158	6,127
MISCELLANEOUS.														
Inspections ...	3	5	3	5	4		25	1	—	14		8	68	
Interviews ...	3	6	17	21	9		54	7	—	19		22	158	
Number of Informal Notices served	7	16	5	8	6		7	8	7	14		—	78	
Number of Statutory Notices served	—	21	—	13	8		6	5	16	—		—	69	
Number of Houses treated for eradication of Insect Pests ...	19	35	31	45	68		164	64	62	46		65	599	
Number of Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—		4	1	—	—		—	5	
Number of Houses disinfected at request of Occupier ...	1	—	—	—	2		—	—	2	—		—	5	
Number of items of Bedding, Clothing destroyed by request ...	50	73	51	102	106		289	85	105	85		126	1,072	
Choked Drains cleansed ...	7	9	4	9	5		13	4	3	5		11	70	
Number of Schools fumigated ...	—	—	—	—	1		—	—	—	—		—	1	
													2,125	8,252
Informal Notices Complied ...	5	1	1	6	1		6	2	3	5		2	32	
													32	8,284
Statutory Notices Complied ...	2	26	3	12	9		16	3	8	3		7	89	
													89	8,373
LAND CHARGES ACT.													489	8,862
Searches ...	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—		—	—	







